

Target Location, Designation and Hand-Off System



Description

The Target Location, Designation and Hand-off System (TLDHS) is a modular, man-portable equipment suite that provides the ability to quickly acquire targets in day, night, and near-all-weather visibility conditions. Operators are able to accurately determine their own location, as well as that of their targets, digitally transmit (hand-off) data to supporting arms elements, and designate targets for laser-seeking Precision Guided Munitions (PGM) and Laser Spot Trackers (LST). The TLDHS will be fielded to Forward Observer (FO) Teams, Naval Gun Fire (NGF) Spot Teams, Tactical Air Control Parties (TACPs), and Reconnaissance Teams.

Operational Impact

The system enables the user to perform target acquisition, and then hand targets off to fire support agencies via an interface with tactical data systems, using current and planned communications equipment. TLDHS will employ a laser designator for guiding PGMs and laser spot trackers. The primary users of the system will be Forward Air Controllers (FACs) for maneuver elements, FOs for field artillery, Fire Power Control Teams (FCT) of the Air and Naval Gunfire Liaison Companies (ANGLICO), as well as Marine Liaison Elements (MLE),

Division and Force Recon Marines, and supporting establishments responsible for the training of FOs, FACs, and FCT personnel.

Program Status

An evolutionary acquisition approach is used for the TLDHS program. All of the hardware components of the system are commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) or government-off-the-shelf (GOTS). As such, they continue to be upgraded and improved as technology advances. In order to keep pace with these advances, three block upgrades are planned after the initial fielding block of the TLDHS system. Block I completed fielding during FY 04. This initial capability provides the Marine FAC a digital Close Air Support (CAS) capability for AV-8B and F/A-18 aircraft. As other developmental programs are further refined, such as the Rugged Handheld Computer (RHC) and Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS), they will be incorporated/upgraded within the TLDHS system. Version updates of Target Hand-Off System (THS) software will also be included as a part of the block upgrades. The TLDHS evolutionary acquisition strategy is divided into four blocks that represent the progressive acquisition of system capabilities and performance.

Procurement Profile: FY 05 FY 06

Quantity: 50 150

Developer/Manufacturer:

THS Software:

Stauder Technology, Saint Peters, MO

Ruggedized Handheld Computer:

General Dynamics, Taunton, MA

Radio: Harris RF Communications, Rochester, NY